



**ARTS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, February 2, 2021 – 6:00 - 7:00 PM
AGENDA**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone or Zoom. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Sabrina Church at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

- I. CALL TO ORDER**
- II. ROLL CALL**
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
- IV. ADMINISTRATION**
 - a. Approve the minutes of the January 5, 2021 regular meeting.
- V. COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES**
 - a. Budget Committee Update
 - i. Finance update – Nori Grudin
 - b. Communications Committee Update
 - i. Social Media update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan
 - c. Infrastructure Committee Update
 - i. MLK update – Janet Evelyn & Julio Pardo

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Approve the updated Norwalk Arts Commission Bylaws.
- b. Approve the proposed MLK Blvd. Public Art Plan to further its review by relative City Council Committees and the Common Council.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Discussion on decommissioned traffic boxes.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone or Zoom. Specific instructions and links can be found at www.norwalkct.org/meetings.

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Sabrina Church at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**CITY OF NORWALK
ARTS COMMISSION
JANUARY 5, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

ATTENDANCE: Marc Alan, Chair; Robert Abriola; Janet Evelyn; Melissa Matuska; Matthew O'Callaghan; Kadeem Roberts; Nori Grudin (6:23 p.m.); Brian Kaspr (6:34 p.m.); Emerson Straniti (6:34 p.m.)

ABSENT: Helen Roman and Peter Smyth

STAFF: Sabrina Church, Director of Business Development and Tourism

OTHERS: Jason Mulligan; Julio Prado; Michelle Rakowsky

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Alan called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Alan called the Roll as indicated above.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to participate.

IV. ADMINISTRATION

a. Approve the minutes of the December 1, 2020 regular meeting.

**** MS. EVELYN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. ABRIOLA; MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. MATUSKA; MR. O'CALLAGHAN; MR. ROBERTS)**

V. COMMITTEE/STAFF UPDATES

a. Budget Committee Update

i. Finance update – Nori Grudin

Ms. Church updated the Commissioners on the expenditures. The budget packet was sent out for the first review. The Planning Commission will review the budget next week, followed by other City committees.

Mr. Alan proposed holding a meeting of the Budget Committee in January to go over the details of the budget. He invited all Commissioners to send their ideas.

b. Communications Committee Update

i. Social Media update – Michelle Rakowsky & Marc Alan

Mr. Alan said that Ms. Rakowsky continues to do a great job. Ms. Rakowsky said events are starting to pick up and she is looking forward to new initiatives for social media.

Mr. Alan said he will reach out to Mr. O'Callaghan to discuss the newsletter. He invited other members of the Commission to send their ideas to the Communications Committee.

c. Infrastructure Committee Update

Mr. Abriola said the Infrastructure Committee met last week and went through the guidelines and policies for the Commission. They discussed various projects, such as the new banners on Washington Street.

i. MLK update – Sabrina Church and Janet Evelyn

Ms. Evelyn updated the Commissioners on the MLK project. She said there were a lot of potential locations within the MLK corridor for the Art Installation Project. The locations were narrowed down to publicly owned properties.

Ms. Church explained that a plan needs to be formulated and then taken to the various City departments for approval. She added that they will most likely have to have an agreement with the property owner.

Ms. Evelyn described the three proposed locations.

Ms. Grudin joined the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Mr. Abriola discussed the traffic boxes. He said there was a technology issue with one box and it was taken out of commission. The box was located near St. Philips's Art Guild. They will find a new location and add a tribute to Mr. Mobilia who came up with the design.

Mr. Kaspr and Mr. Straniti joined the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

Mr. Prado described the three proposed locations for the Art Installation Project. He also discussed holding a clean up day of the MLK Corridor on Earth Day and engaging the community to participate.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Approve public art amenity for 51 Wall Street design plans

Mr. Alan said that this request is for the Arts Commission's consideration of public art for a building in downtown Norwalk.

Ms. Church explained that in the Zoning code, a developer in that district can get additional height with the addition of a public art amenity. She said that the Arts Commission either endorses or does not endorse the art and then the Zoning Commission can determine if the developer can get the extra height. The Arts Commission's position is to only give their recommendation.

Mr. Mulligan said that he has commissioned over 75 pieces of art. He said Norwalk is getting known as an arts and cultural area. He said he is a real estate broker and loves the Wall Street area.

Mr. Mulligan said he is requesting to add public art to the David Harvey building. He suggested installing soft lights on the building. Mr. Alan said that he felt the lighting was

completely viable and anything that can be done to light up the neighborhood would improve safety. He said he was all for lights as an art installation.

Mr. Mulligan described the proposed lighting and said the building would be lit every night and they would have the ability to have a variety of colors.

Mr. Alan mentioned that someone drove through one of the pieces of art at the Art Park and Mr. Mulligan had his crew out the next day to fix the structure. He said that when public art is installed, there has to be a commitment to be sure it is always maintained. He said he has confidence that it will be maintained. Mr. Mulligan said the project is subject to third party architectural review. Mr. Mulligan thanked Mr. Alan for his testimonial on the upkeep. He noted that he owns 38 buildings and they are constantly being maintained.

Mr. Mulligan explained that the lights will affix to the building. The bulbs will shine up. He said the building will be a large improvement to the City.

Ms. Matuska asked Mr. Mulligan to come back to the Arts Commission with a day and night rendering and maintenance schedule as well as the reason for the additional story. Mr. Alan said the additional story is a Zoning consideration.

Ms. Evelyn asked if the lighting installation will be specific to this one building. Mr. Mulligan said that the Wall Street Neighborhood Association hopes to get nicer lighting on the street. He noted the property owners can't be forced to put lights on their building.

Mr. Straniti commended Mr. Mulligan for his work to increase public art, but asked why he did not hire an artist to do something artful. Mr. Mulligan said he and his architect tried to come up with something and they hope the Commission can see this as artistic.

**** MS. MATUSKA MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM PENDING THE
SUBMISSION OF A RENDERING OF THE PROPOSED LIGHTING
** MS. EVELYN SECONDED
** MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE (5) VOTES IN FAVOR, TWO (2) VOTES
IN OPPOSITION AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS**

Mr. Alan asked Mr. Mulligan if he would be willing to come back next month with a rendering. Mr. Mulligan said he was not willing to commit to that.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KASPR MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. ABRIOLA; MR. ALAN; MS. EVELYN; MS. GRUDIN; MR. KASPR; MS. MATUSKA; MR. O'CALLAGHAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. STRANITI)**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

NORWALK ARTS COMMISSION

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

THE COMMISSION

Section 1. The Norwalk Arts Commission (hereafter referred to as the NAC or Commission) was established by the Common Council on February 28, 2017 pursuant to Chapter 17A Sections 17 A-1 through 17 A-3 of the Code of the City of Norwalk, as amended.

Section 2. The power of the NAC shall be exercised by a Commission consisting of eleven members.

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE and DUTIES

Section 1. The purpose of the NAC shall be to connect the arts and the community and to serve as stewards for the City's public art collection and cultural assets, increasing public awareness and community pride, ensuring high standards, for the benefit of future generations or as otherwise set forth in Section 17A-3 of the Norwalk City Code.

Section 2. In no event shall the acts or proposed acts of this Commission conflict with the lawful designated duties of any other body or commission of the City of Norwalk.

ARTICLES III

OFFICES

Section 1. The principal office of the NAC shall be 125 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut, or at other such location as shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Commission.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The NAC shall consist of eleven (11) voting members. They shall include nine (9) members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council and two members of the Common Council, but no more than one member from any political party. No person shall be appointed or reappointed to the Commission unless they are an elector of the City. Members of the Common Council may appoint a continuous designee (alternate) to represent him/her.

Section 2. Members appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council ~~after the initial staggered appointments in 2017~~ shall serve for a term of three years. ~~The first commissioners appointed in 2017 shall serve staggered terms: three commissioners shall serve for one year, three for two years, and three for three years.~~ Any vacancy shall be filled by the

Mayor with the consent of the Common Council for the unexpired portion of the term of the member whose place shall become vacant.

Section 3. Common Council representatives or their designees shall serve from the date of his or her appointment until expiration or earlier termination of his or her term. Representatives from city departments, arts organizations and arts-related businesses may serve as ex officio without the right to vote.

Section 4. There shall also be a category of non-voting members and friends who may attend and participate in meetings and serve on standing and ad hoc committees. The Commission invites and encourages the involvement of all interested community members and those who contribute to Norwalk's creative economy.

ARTICLE V **OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES**

Section 1. The officers of the NAC shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who shall be voting members of the Commission.

Section 2. At its first meeting subsequent to July 1 each year, the Commission shall nominate and elect ~~by ballot~~ a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer to serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their term of office shall commence on July first. Should the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary or Treasurer become vacant, the Commission shall elect a successor at the next regular meeting, or special meeting called for that purpose, who shall serve for the remainder of the unfilled term.

Section 3. No member of the Commission shall hold more than one office at a time.

Section 4. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Commission. At all ~~meetings~~ of the Commission, the Chair shall submit such recommendations and information as he or she may consider proper concerning the business affairs and policies of the NAC.

Section 5. The Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the Chair in the absence or incapacitation of the Chair.

Section 6. The Secretary shall take or cause to be taken proper minutes of all meetings of the Commission, shall keep a record of all proceedings of the Commission, and shall perform all duties commonly incident to this office. In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Secretary shall call the meeting to order and preside until the immediate election of a Chair Pro Tem.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall oversee the Commission's budget(s) including the timely review and submission of invoices for payment, preparation of monthly financial statements, and ~~assist designated staff with~~ development of annual operating and other budgets as needed.

Section 8. The officers shall perform such other duties and functions as may from time to time be prescribed by the Commission.

Section 9. The Commission may appoint or hire an Executive Director (who shall not be a member of the Commission), who shall serve at the pleasure of the Commission, work not more than 19 hours per week, subject to available funding, and have such duties and receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the Commission.

Section 10. Administrative staff is assigned through the Department of Economic and Community Development, supported by the Department of Business Development and Tourism.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0"

Section 11. The Norwalk Arts Commission can contain a subset of committees and groups to accomplish specific tasks and action items identified by the public, City officials, or the commission. They are as follows:

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

- Infrastructure Committee: Matters of Public Art Policy related to Applications and Approvals may be assigned by the Norwalk Arts Commission to its internal Infrastructure Committee, for research, processing, and implementation. The Infrastructure Committee, which is comprised of Voting Arts Commissioners, and other Friends of the Arts Commission (see below Part E), shall present its work to the Voting Membership for Final Approval before being sent to the Common Council.

Formatted: Underline, Not Highlight

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0", Bulleted + Level: 1 + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"

Formatted: Not Highlight

- Collaboration Committee: Matters of Public Art Policy that pertain to work across other City Agencies and Commissions may entail work by the Collaboration Committee, which is comprised of Voting Arts Commissioners, and other Friends of the Arts Commission, which shall present any work to the Voting Membership for Final Approval.

Formatted: Underline, Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

- Communications Committee: Matters of Public Art Policy that require interface with the Public, or Arts Community, through the Press, and or Social Media, including, but not limited to, Press Releases, RFP, etc. All works by the Communications Committee, which is comprised of Voting Arts Commissioners and other Friends of the Arts Commission shall be presented to the Commission Voting Membership for Final Approval.

Formatted: Underline, Not Highlight

Formatted: Not Highlight

- Budget Committee: This committee consists of the Treasurer of the Norwalk Arts Commission, Chairman of the Arts Commission, and Co-Chair. This committee works on the overall budget, and makes specific recommendations to the Voting Membership, who must vote for Final Approval prior to implementation.

Formatted: Underline, Not Highlight

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0"

Formatted: Not Highlight

Section 129. No member of the Commission or employee of the NAC or any corporation, partnership or firm in which such member or employee has a financial interest, direct or indirect, shall do business with the NAC or have any financial interest, direct or indirect, in any business transacted by the NAC. All members of the NAC shall be subject - to all applicable local, state and federal ordinances, policies and laws including but not limited to those pertaining to ethics and Freedom of Information.

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. The regular meetings of the Commission shall be held on the second-first Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM8:30AM in City Hall, unless otherwise ordered by the Chair.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the Chair and shall be called upon the written request of three (3) members of the Commission for the purpose of transacting, any business designated in the call. Except for cases of an emergency, at least forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given by mail, email, or delivery to each member of the Commission. Special meetings held by teleconference are permissible.

Section 3. Six (6) voting members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum for exercising powers of the Commission, but a smaller number may adjourn from time to time until a quorum is obtained. A vote of a majority of the voting members of the Commission present shall be necessary for any action taken by the Commission. An abstention from voting is considered not a vote for these purposes. When an elected official and his/her designee are both in attendance at a meeting, only the elected official shall be eligible to vote.

Section 4. At all meetings of the Commission the following order of business shall be observed, as far as consistent with the purpose of the meeting, although at any meeting items b) through e) may be dispensed with, or their order changed at the discretion of the Chair:

- a) Reading and approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
- b) ~~Reports of officers~~ Administration
- c) Reports of committees, officers, and staff
- d) ~~Unfinished business~~ Old business
- e) ~~Other business~~ New business
- f) Adjournment

All resolutions shall be in writing and shall be copied in a journal of the proceedings of the Commission.

ARTICLE VII

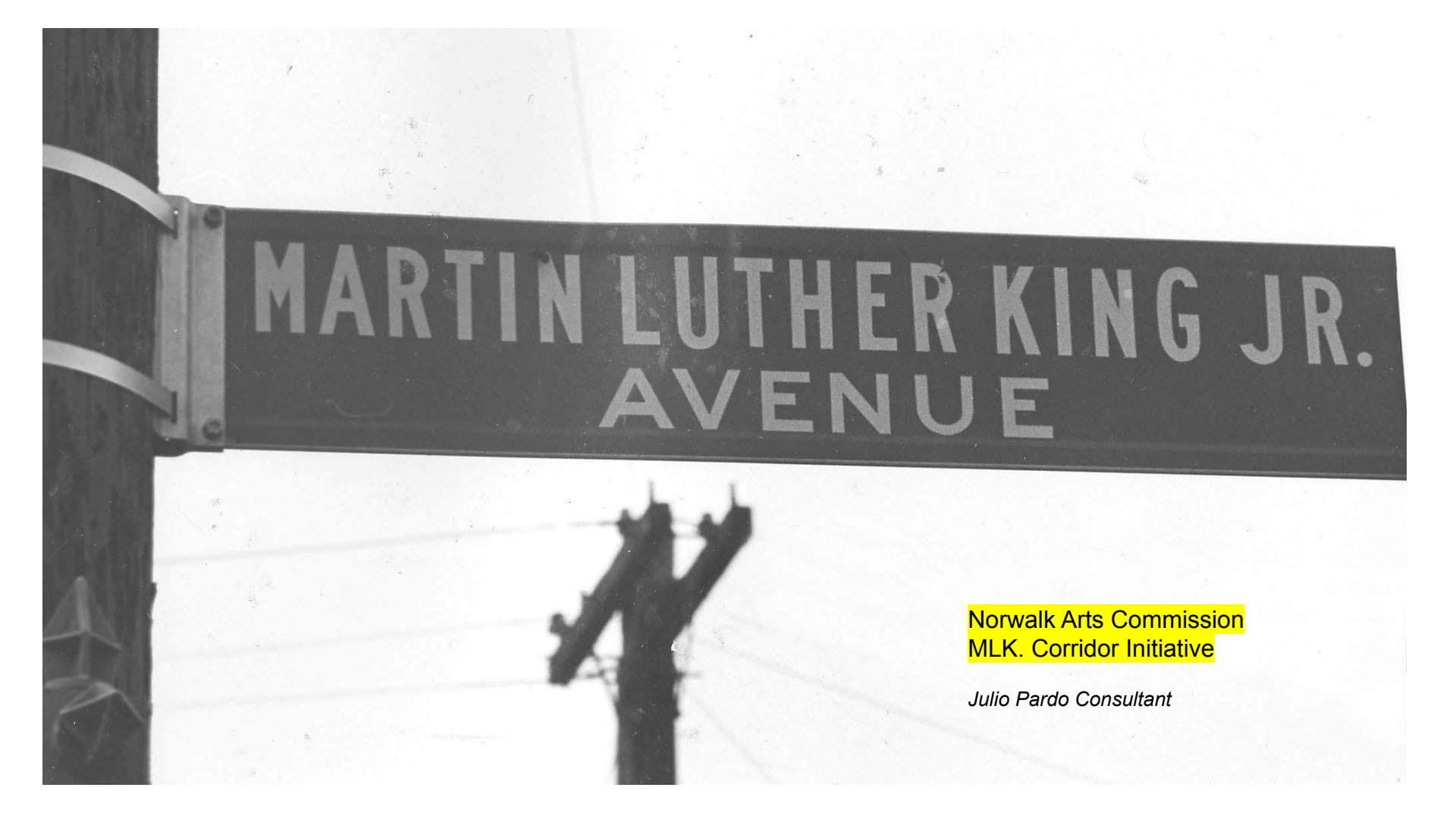
PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. The rules contained in the current edition of Mason's Manual of Legislative Procedure shall govern the Commission in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not consistent with the bylaws and any special rules of order the Commission may adopt.

ARTICLE VIII

BYLAWS

Section 1. The Commission shall establish such bylaws, rules and regulations as may be necessary to achieve the purposes set out herein. The Commission's bylaws, rules and regulations, including any proposed amendments, shall become effective upon approval by the Common Council.



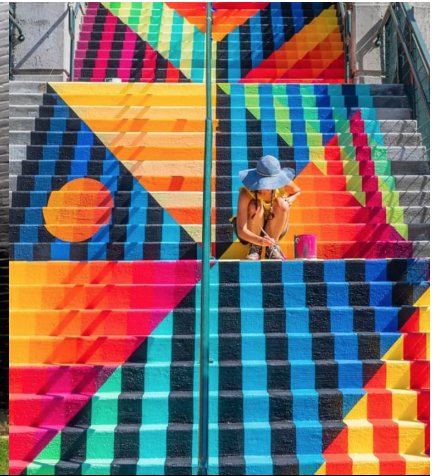
MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
AVENUE

Norwalk Arts Commission
MLK. Corridor Initiative

Julio Pardo Consultant

For most of us Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd is a place we drive thru when going from Point A to Point B. What if we could change that journey? What if we curated safe spaces on these streets for ART, Inclusion and Unity to honor the life, ideas and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King JR?

Inspired by the moment during Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's most famous speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial when the Gospel Singer Mahalia Jackson implored him *"tell them about the Dream, Martin"* It was at this point that he went off script and delivered "I have a Dream" one of the most Iconic and beloved speeches in American History.



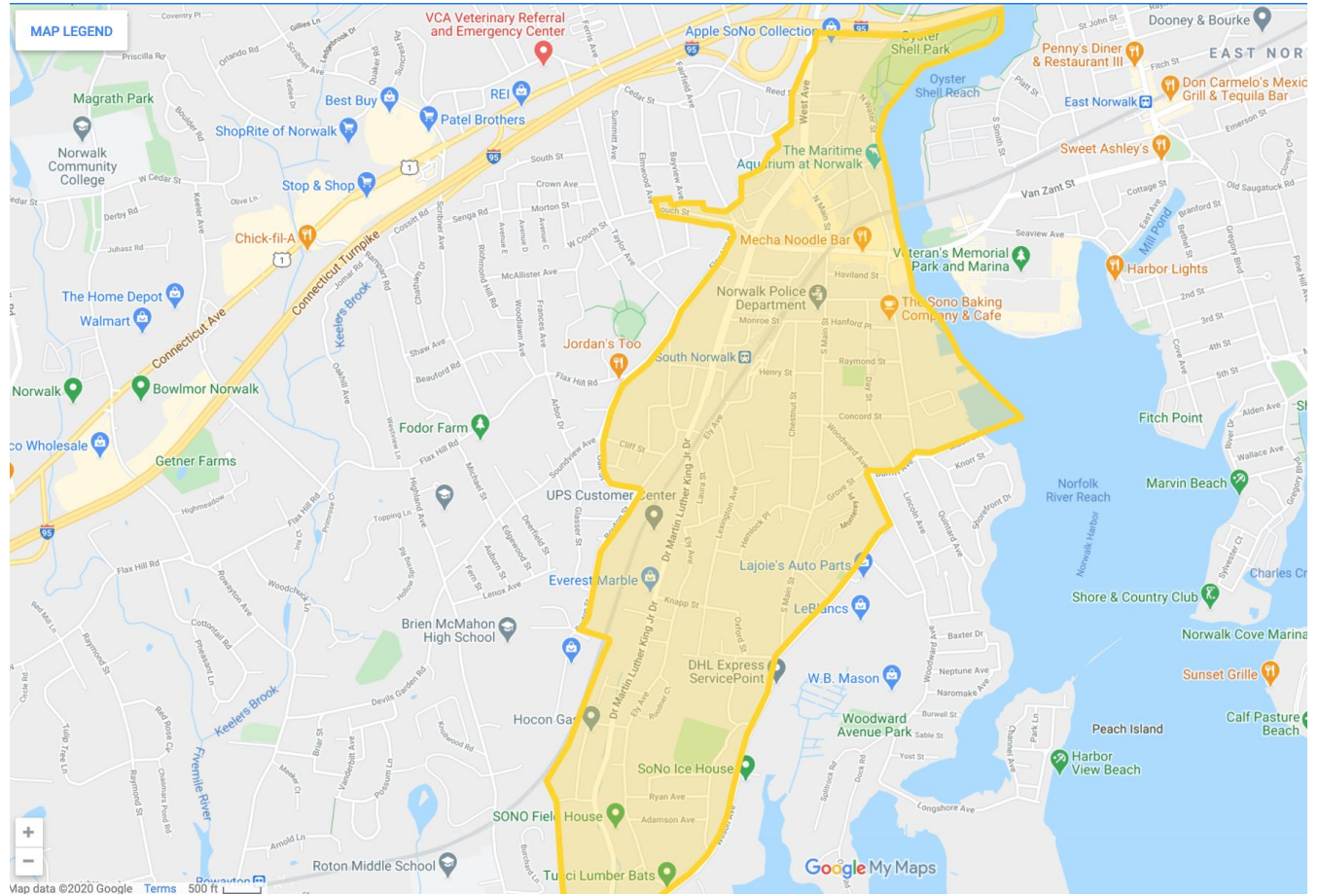
This is Dream Street.



Objective: Create site specific Art Installations, Events and Improvements in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Corridor to celebrate the legacy, to grow the community, create identity and foster Inclusion.

IMPACT | VIABILITY

MLK Corridor Public Art Site Survey



Madison St.
&
MLK Jr Blvd
(Public)



Nathaniel Ely School
(Public)



South Main
& Wilson
(Private)



Franklin & Ely
(Public)



Roodner Court
Basketball Courts
(Public)



William Rippe
Tennis Center Wall
(Public)



Monroe St
SONO Station
(Public)



Everest Marble
2 Taft Street & MLK
(Private)



MLK JR. Blvd
Backside
of Residential
300 Crestwood Co-op
(Private)



MLK @Wilson Ave
Pumping Station
(Public)



Van Dyk Recycling
360 MLK JR Blvd
(Private)



Day St @
Hanford Place
(Private)



North Main@
Washington St
(Private)



UPS Facility
190 MLK JR Blvd.
(Private)



Timeline & Budget

Phase 1 - Dec 2020 / April 2021

Conduct Research, vet sites within the MLK Jr Corridor for Public Art
Explore and develop Community partnerships.

Call to Artists

4/18 ArtUP/Clean Up - Community Outreach Event

Pop Arts Lab - Student Artists Project

Identify & conduct interviews with Local Leaders and Residents.

Site Selections & Approvals

Formal Request for Proposals

Artist Briefing - Open session, brainstorm and discussion including site selection, artistic guidelines, community input.

Presentation & Review of Artist Recommendation(s)

Committee / Council Approvals

Phase 2 - April 2021 / June 2021

Artist Contract(s)

Site Prep

Art Installation

Total Budget 50K

30K Artist Commission(s)

7.5K Consultant Project Management

1.5K Community Outreach

2.5K Artist Stipends (10)

3.5K Student Art Project

5K Production costs, Site staging & prepping, Materials, Delivery, Installations